

Appendix 4



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CHARLES C. MADDOX, ESQ.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS DIVISION
MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT

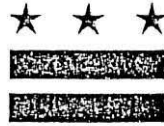
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
YOUTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
OAK HILL YOUTH CENTER**

**SECURITY BREACHES AT OAK HILL YOUTH
CENTER**

MAR 03 – I - 007
OCTOBER 9, 2003

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



October 9, 2003

Leticia Lacomba
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Youth Services Administration
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Office of Contracting and Procurement
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Marceline Alexander
Interim Director
Office of Property Management
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Dear Ms. Lacomba, Mr Abadie, and Ms. Alexander:

This is a Management Alert Report (MAR 03-I-007) to inform you of significant issues that have come to our attention as a result of our inspection of the Department of Human Services, Youth Services Administration (YSA). The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) provides these reports when we believe a serious matter requires the immediate attention of a District of Columbia (District) government official.

Background:

The inspection team (team) observed serious breaches of security at entrances to the Oak Hill Detention Facility in Laurel, Maryland. These entrances are staffed by contract security guards employed through the District's Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP). The team

found that the Office of Property Management's (OPM) Protective Services Division is responsible for monitoring security services under this contract. Because the security guards are hired through OCP and monitored by OPM, YSA management exercises no direct supervision. According to YSA management, neither OCP nor OPM adequately monitor the performance of the security guards, and the current contract does not permit YSA management to take disciplinary action against guards who violate security policies and procedures, even when an infraction is fully documented.

The team found that the contracted security guards are responsible for:

- preventing the entrance of contraband¹ into the detention facility through the use of effective package searches, metal detector screenings, and frisks or pat searches; and
- controlling the perimeter of the facility by preventing unauthorized persons and/or vehicles from entering the facility by obtaining proper identification and registering all non-YSA employees and vehicles.

Observations:

1. Security guards do not thoroughly search bags, packages, containers, and other personal items of employees and visitors entering the secure detention facility. Consequently, searches of the residential areas frequently reveal contraband such as marijuana, lighters, cigarettes, and videotapes.

YSA management has posted a sign at the gatehouse of the secured detention facility advising visitors and employees that all packages are subject to search. A list of contraband items not permitted in the facility is also posted at the entrance (Attachment A).

The team found, however, that the security guards are performing only cursory searches of items such as bags, briefcases, and purses brought into the facility by staff and visitors. On numerous occasions, the security guards failed to open and search these containers, and contraband items such as cell phones, non-prescription drugs, pornographic materials, and items that could be used as weapons, were allowed through the security checkpoint. YSA employees stated that knives and ice picks have been carried through the checkpoint. In addition, drugs such as marijuana and PCP are entering the facility due to the lack of proper searches, resulting in a large number of residents testing positive for illegal substances during random drug testing.

¹ YSA defines contraband as articles prohibited under law applicable to the general public that are readily capable of being used to cause death or serious physical injury, such as firearms, cartridges, knives, explosives, or illegal drugs. These items are prohibited by the rules and regulations of the facility and, when possessed by a resident without authorization, are considered contraband and are seized.